

## Neighborhood Plan Update Workshop with Members of the Senior Citizen Community

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April 3, 2009

Meeting held at the SE Seattle Senior Center

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### **Chosen area** (what we like about the neighborhood)

- Diversity is a plus
- The people — diversity, multiculturalism, different lifestyles, cultures, languages
- Schools — local schools have unique makeup and programs
- New merchants — exciting, more choices

### **Housing** (would like to see)

- More multi-family options such as ADUs (mother-in-law units), no townhouse/4-plexes, must fit the current area, not shoe-horned into single-family, must have good design
- Larger homes
- Lower taxes
- More economic diversity
- Gentrification shouldn't push out current residents

### **Goods, Services, Shops** (would like)

- Like the new shops, they offer more choices
- Cultural resource center — hub for activities, educational opportunities for youth & families
- Full-service supermarket — especially near Othello station, (would like to know why it is moving), very strong feelings about this, city should prohibit sales clause prohibiting new grocery store at this site, is a neighborhood necessity, what can be done now!!
- Clothing store — like Kmart, Wall-Mart, Fred Myer, Target
- Drug store/pharmacy
- Do not want to destroy existing small businesses, especially ethnic stores
- Larger dance studio
- Vocation opportunities such as beauty school
- Keep the small restaurants
- Wholesome foods — PCC, farmers' market, etc.
- More p-patches, support for healthy eating
- Health clinic

### **Parks & Community Centers**

- Concerns over safety in parks, need better lighting
- Need more year-round programs in parks
- Community centers — have an adult focus
- Don't use parks much
- Parks need to be outdoor living spaces with tables, chairs, chess boards
- Walking — people need places to sit & rest

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- Concerts in parks — maintain/encourage current festivals, schedule regular performances (bi-weekly? Year 'round?)
- Reputation of parks as having drug-dealing

#### **Unique characteristics, Sense of Place**

- Area is a valley, it funnels gatherings into one area
- Need more community gatherings — invite celebrity such as Bill Gates, Oprah
- Need a public plaza with programming
- City needs to develop a positive image for SE Seattle

#### **Transportation**

- Now take the bus especially when going where parking is limited/expensive as at doctor's office
- Often drive
- ACCESS bus could use extended hours
- Light rail — would take to the airport but can't get to local station, would like park'n ride at the station, need bus routes to the station, not easy to get to the station, luggage difficult to get on to bus to go to airport
- Parking policy around station needs re-examined — businesses need parking & restricted parking hurts them, not enough parking is required for new residential buildings
- Sidewalks — need more, should be wide in the business district
- Othello/MLK — a rare cross-valley connector, activity centers (neighborhood service center, police, community center, library) need connected by a shuttle because of the hills/topography, difficult to walk between sites
- Need wheelchair-friendly routes to parks, including signage for such routes
- Believe light rail will decrease congestion
- Light rail stations are more than 1 mile apart so need to continue MLK bus

#### **Misc.**

- Norfolk Business Park — perfect for green technology businesses and could provide jobs for local residents
- City needs to consider effect of redevelopment of Goodwill site on this area, not just the positives & negatives, but the types of effects